

ACC Child Care & Development Dept.  
CDEC 1392 – Special Topics in Child Development  
Master Syllabus

**Course Description:** A study of the attitudes and behaviors pertinent to child development and to the student's professional development. Emphasis is placed on observing and recording children's behaviors and utilizing this information in an applied setting, professional ethics and the workplace. Only offered in Spring Semesters. (CDEC 1392 and CDEC 1166 replace CDP 1634) (3-3-0)

**Prerequisites:** Fundamentals of Reading (DEVR 0303) and Fundamentals of Writing (DEVW 0303) or satisfactory score on appropriate placement test and completion of 15 – 25 hours of CDEC courses.

**Co-requisite:** CDEC 1166 Practicum I; Reading Skills I (DEVR 1303), Writing Skills I (DEVW 1403) or satisfactory score on appropriate placement test. You must complete the requirements of CDEC 1166 to obtain a passing grade in this course.

**Required Texts:** Current edition of *Week by Week: Plans for Observing and Recording Young Children*. Nilsen, Barbara; Cengage-Delmar publishing

**Instructional Methodology:** This is a lecture course in which the student learns through class lectures, discussions, case studies, small group activities, self-reflection and course assignments.

**Course Rationale:** This course is designed as a capstone course for the certificate and AAS Child Development program. It provides a supportive environment for students to learn about and discuss the teaching techniques and strategies needed to be a successful assistant teacher of young children. To be an effective member of an early childhood education team, students need the opportunity to learn and practice a wide range of observation, assessment, planning and guidance techniques in a collaborative early childhood classroom environment. They also need to learn the skills of working with other team members and parents and the key elements of professionalism in the classroom.

**NAEYC Standards:**

All coursework in ACC's Child Development Department include student learning opportunities and outcomes that address the National Association for the Education of Young Children's Standards for Early Childhood Professional Preparation in Associate Degree Programs. The Standards intentionally cover areas of professional preparation that are required to be sure that all young children will receive the kind of early education they need and deserve. Following are the Standards which are included in your coursework:

**STANDARD 1: Promoting Child Development And Learning**

**1a:** Knowing and understanding young children's characteristics and needs

**1b:** Knowing and understanding the multiple influences on development and learning

**1c:** Using developmental knowledge to create healthy, respectful, supportive, and challenging learning environments

**STANDARD 3: Observing, Documenting, And Assessing To Support Young Children And Families**

**3a:** Understanding the goals, benefits, and uses of assessment

**3b:** Knowing about and using observation, documentation, and other appropriate assessment tools

**3c:** Understanding and practicing responsible assessment

**Course Objectives:** The student will:

1. Discuss developmental theory and analyze the connections between establishing a theoretical perspective and carrying out observations:
  - a. Compare maturational, behavioral and interactionist perspectives on development.
  - b. Recognize differing views regarding characteristics of development
  - c. Discuss the ways in which theory provides the basis for observation.
  - d. Describe the relationship between one's theoretical perspective and how one proceeds with observations
  - e. Develop and articulate a statement of how children grow and develop
2. Discuss developmentally appropriate practice and its application to teaching methods, curriculum and classroom planning.
3. Explain individual and group guidance and problem solving techniques which develop positive and supportive relationships with children, encourage prosocial behaviors, promote positive conflict resolution, and develop self-control, motivation and esteem in children.
4. Discuss the components of physically and psychologically safe and healthy environments for children:
  - a. Explain the appropriate use of emergency medical procedures
  - b. Describe the indicators of child neglect and abuse and responsibility and procedures for reporting known or suspected abuse.
5. Summarize the importance of maintaining positive relationships with families.
6. Define the observation process and analyze various observation techniques:
  - a. Compare and contrast various observation techniques, including narrative descriptions, diaries, time sampling, event sampling, anecdotal records, duration records and checklists.
7. Discuss professional and ethical behavior for a teacher of young children by:
  - a. Explain applicable local, state and national regulations and laws.
  - b. Describe professional organizations for early childhood professionals and the importance of professional growth opportunities.
  - c. Discuss the Early Care and Education Code of Ethics.

**SCANS Competencies:** All key SCANS workplace competencies are addressed in this course as preparation to serve as an assistant teacher in the classroom working with young children. The course is designed to assist students with the knowledge and skills they need to productively use resources and technology needed to work with young children. The students learn needed interpersonal skills for working with the lead teacher, other professionals and families. Students learn to evaluate, organize and interpret data related to observation of young children as well as understanding the basic systems that are critical in working with children in a child care or preschool setting. The course also addresses basic skills of reading and writing as well as thinking skills and personal qualities as identified in SCANS.

## Course Policies and Requirements:

**Lab Experiences:** CDEC 1166 must be taken concurrently with this course. As described above under course objectives, your fieldwork experiences form the basis for discussion in this course. You must, therefore, complete the requirements of CDEC 1166 to obtain a passing grade in this course.

**Attendance:** Each instructor will establish an attendance policy. Students must adhere to the attendance policy as stated in the individual course syllabus.

**Withdrawals:** Students may withdraw from one or more courses prior to the withdrawal deadline by submitting a request form to Admissions and Records. Withdrawal deadlines are published in the academic calendar. Withdrawal courses appear on the student's record with a grade of W. Until a student is officially withdrawn, the student remains on the class roll and may receive a grade of F for the course.

Students are responsible for understanding the impact withdrawing from a course may have on their financial aid, veterans' benefits, international student status, and academic standing. Students are urged to consult with their instructor or an advisor before making schedule changes.

**Per state law, students enrolling for the first time in fall 2007 or later at any Texas college or university may not withdraw (receive a W) from more than six courses during their undergraduate college career. Some exceptions for good cause could allow a student to withdraw from a course without having it count toward this limit. Students are encouraged to carefully select courses; contact an advisor or counselor for assistance.**

**Incompletes:** An incomplete will be assigned only if the student is making satisfactory progress and has completed at least half of the tests, assignments and fieldwork.

**Legible Assignments:** I expect all assignments to be written in complete sentences and to contain understandable paragraphs. Work that does not reflect these expectations will be returned to you for correction. The ACC Labs are wonderful resources and the Lab tutors will help you be sure that your assignments meet these expectations.

**Professional Ethics:** You are expected to maintain professional ethics while in this course. Careful adherence to NAEYC's Professional Code of Ethics when dealing with families, children, colleagues and supervising teachers is mandatory. Information about the Code of Ethics is available on NAEYC's website at [www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org). In addition, classroom discussions and all written work must reflect our commitment to maintaining issues of confidentiality for all children and families who allow our observations.

**Scholastic Dishonesty:** ACC's Scholastic Dishonesty Policy is stated in the Student Handbook: "Acts prohibited by the College for which discipline may be administered include scholastic dishonesty, including but not limited to cheating on an exam or quiz, plagiarizing, and unauthorized collaboration with another in preparing outside work. Academic work submitted by students shall be the result of their thought, research or self-expression. Academic work is defined as, but not limited to tests, quizzes, whether taken electronically or on paper; projects, either individual or group; classroom presentations, and homework." Failure to comply with this policy will result in loss of course credit for the assignments and may result in withdrawal from this course.

**Electronic Technology:**

During all tests, please be sure that all electronic technology like cell phones, PDA's, etc., are turned off. Doing this prevents any misunderstanding about the use of the equipment for obtaining test information.

**Students with Disabilities:** The Student Handbook states that: "Each ACC campus offers support services for students with documented physical or psychological disabilities. Students with disabilities must request reasonable accommodations through the Office for Students with Disabilities on the campus where they expect to take the majority of their classes. Students are encouraged to do this three weeks before the start of the semester." The Office for Students with Disabilities for Eastview can be reached at 223-4159; Rio Grande has a TTY, 223-9000.

**Student Freedom of Expression:** Each student is strongly encouraged to participate in an open dialog. In any instructional situation that includes critical thinking, there are bound to be many differing viewpoints. These differences enhance the learning experience and create an atmosphere encouraging us to think and learn. I do expect that we respect the views of each other even if they differ substantially on volatile and sensitive topics.

**Grade Requirements for Child Development Majors:** Students majoring in Child Development must receive a "C" or above in this course to receive credit for this course in the Child Development Certificate or AAS degree. The course may be retaken for a higher grade. See the [ACC Catalog](#) for more information.

**If your course uses the testing center:**

Prior to taking tests at the Testing Center, it is the student's responsibility to obtain, read and be thoroughly familiar with [ACC's Testing Policy Rules](#). Violation of these rules is very serious and may result in disciplinary action.